

ISTITUTO DI GENETICA MEDICA
DELL'UNIVERSITÀ

VIA CHERASCO 15 - TORINO

Cappellini

Milan, 5 November 1959.

Dr. J. Lederberg
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Stanford University
Stanford - Calif.

Dear Joshua,

spatial
I must thank you for the very useful informations about spacial contamination. As you requested I have not quoted you directly. The subject is very interesting, but after having read for the first time some books on astrophysics, I have reached the conclusion that the problem of life is after all rather trivial in comparison with the real question : what is the Universe.

Your sentence "L'esportazione dei cervelli è sempre controproducente" is becoming famous and has been quoted by a number of newspapers which are campaigning for the necessity of improving scientific education in Italy. Unfortunately that is not the opinion of the "barons" of our Universities and in the concorso for the chairs of Genetics, only Luca has good chances of ^{being elected} ~~success~~; the other two winners shall be old-timer ignorabimus. Knowing our Universities that is a great success (i.e. that at least, they do not dare to refuse Luca).

Please present our best regards to Esther. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours

Ruggiero